

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the final Office Action mailed January 2, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 21, and 23. The Examiner indicated that claim 22 contained allowable subject matter. The Examiner also allowed claims 1 - 6, 10 - 19, 24 - 33, 35, and 36.

By this response, Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the subject matter of claims 21 and 22. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable. Dependent claim 23 should also be allowable.

Applicants request that this Amendment be entered. This Amendment should be entered because it puts the claims in condition for allowance. This response should not require further consideration or search by the Examiner because the Examiner has already indicated that this Amendment would put the claims in allowable form.


Although Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 22, Applicants point out for the record that they disagree with the rejection of claim 20, 21, and 23. The references cited by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest the inventions claimed. Not all of the claim limitations are disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the limitations of allowable claim 22 and intermediate claim 21.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request entry of the Amendment, reconsideration of the claims, and a Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 4-2-04


Julie R. Daughton
Reg. No. 36,414
JRD:st

